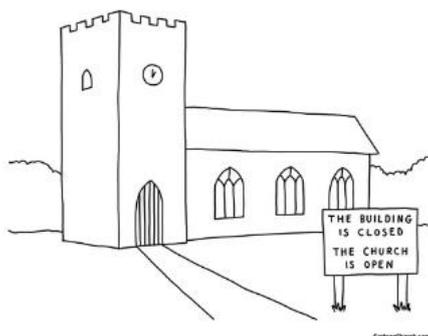


St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill



The Church continues to be alive and active, but our buildings must close.

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES THIS SUNDAY 17th MAY

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER:

Acts 17: 22-31; 1 Peter 3: 13-22; John 14: 15-21; Psalm 66 verses 7-18

REFLECTIONS FROM THE RECTOR:

The Rector has written a brief reflection and prayer for this Sixth Sunday after Easter – the document is attached.

SUNDAY SERVICE - Revd Val Plumb, Rural Dean for Mursley Deanery

The Rural Dean will be recording a 15/20-minute service on Sunday. The you tube link will be on the website.

RADIO 4:

Sunday Worship at 8.10am. “The Gifts of the Holy Spirit”

Discovering the gifts of the Holy Spirit with the Rev Dr Alison Jack of New College, Edinburgh, and Fr Dermot Preston SJ of St Aloysius' RC Church, Glasgow

BBC TELEVISION:

Sunday Worship BBC 1 at 10.45am Sixth Sunday of Easter

The Very Reverend Dr Sarah Rowland Jones leads the service on the sixth Sunday of Easter from St Davids Cathedral in Pembrokeshire, filmed before the closure of all church buildings was announced. With hymns recorded for Songs of Praise, July 2019. The Order of Service can be downloaded from the BBC website: -

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000jbqs>

Followed by Sunday Morning Stories at 11.15am “Community”

This week Kate Bottley is enthused by the people lending a helping hand in their community. And whether they are spurred on by their faith in God or simply by the human spirit, she uncovers some extraordinary stories to give everyone hope and joy.

Songs of Praise BBC 1 at 1.15pm Modern Hymn Writers

Aled Jones meets Songs of Praise conductor Ken Burton to discuss why, in times of difficulty and trouble, the singing of Christian hymns can lift our hearts and soothe our souls. We revisit Sean Fletcher’s meeting with Graham Kendrick, who talked about writing his generation-defining song Shine Jesus Shine in the 1980s. Aled also recalls Pam Rhodes’s meeting with Catholic hymnwriter Bernadette Farrell, and American singer-songwriter and Grammy-winner Michael W Smith reflects on his career and friendship with evangelist Billy Graham. Hymns from the recent Songs of Praise archive. Recorded before current restrictions.

OXFORD DIOCESE LIVE STREAMING:

The Revd Canon Sue Booy, Rector of Dorchester Abbey, will be leading the Church at Home service on Sunday 17th May at 10am; and that the Very Revd Prof Martyn Percy, Dean of Christ Church Cathedral, will deliver the sermon. To download the order of service and to watch the service, live or at a later time, follow the link:-

<https://www.oxford.anglican.org/coronavirus-covid-19/livestream/>

Those unable to watch the service online can now call 01865 920930 and participate by telephone. There is the option to listen to the full service with worship and the Eucharist, or a shorter version without (press 0= short service, 1= full service). Once an option is selected, it takes a couple of seconds of silence before the service starts. Standard call rates apply. Please pass this message on to those who might welcome this way to be involved in worship at this time.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND ONLINE:

Weekly services are streamed each Sunday at 9.00am. Go to the following page, which also lists a range of resources to help walking with Jesus Christ, who is the light of the world:- <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online>

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

REFLECTIONS FOR A CHURCH IN LOCKDOWN:

“My Extraordinary Family – Be Still”

Episode 4: The lockdown is an invitation and an opportunity to come deeper with God, to address our spiritual poverty, to dare to explore that inner space, to be still and to wait for the winds and the earthquake and the fire within to pass and then to listen for that still, small voice speaking in the silence. Psalm 4 is our guide as we dare to explore this inner space.

“Reflections for a Church in Lockdown” is a new series of reflective podcasts and online audio by the Bishop of Oxford, the Rt Revd Dr Steven Croft who says “For each edition I will be talking with someone I’ve come to know in my travels about their faith, their work and their story. I’ll be asking what it means to them to become more Christ-like: contemplative, compassionate and courageous for the sake of God’s world.”

The series aims to resource the Church during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. To listen to the podcast go to:-

<https://blogs.oxford.anglican.org/series/my-extraordinary-family/>

ASCENSION DAY, THURSDAY 21st MAY:

Radio 4:- A Celebration for Ascension Day at 8.00pm.

Every year Radio 4 listeners fill the pews of St Martin-in-the-Fields for Radio 4's broadcast celebration of Ascension Day. But this year is different. As congregations gather remotely, this is a different kind of service constructed from contributions from people across the country recording from their own homes. It's a celebration but also a time to reflect on the present and find hope for the future.

Novelist and priest, the Revd Marie-Elsa Bragg offers a series of reflective meditations. She explores the fundamental place of physical touch in human experience and considers the nature of relationships built at a distance. She reflects on how people approach death, grief and despair, and provides a poetic vision of the future which acknowledges the triumphant power of love.

The service, led by the Vicar of St Martin-in-the-Fields, the Revd Dr Sam Wells, is a tapestry of words and music. It culminates in a new recording of Handel's Hallelujah

Chorus featuring the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra and voices of Radio 4 listeners recorded from their own homes in lock-down around the country. This virtual choir experience allows singers to upload their own recordings singing with the BBC Philharmonic, to create a national choir created especially for this broadcast.

At a time when musicians cannot assemble, the BBC Philharmonic, the Daily Service Singers, St Martin's Voices and solo artists are also brought together, recording remotely, to create unique versions of hymns and anthems for Ascension Day.

Oxford Diocese Live Streaming:

There will be an online service for **Ascension Day at 8.15pm on Thursday**.

To watch the service, live or at a later time, follow the link:-

<https://www.oxford.anglican.org/coronavirus-covid-19/livestream/>

THY KINGDOM COME:

We are approaching the 'Thy Kingdom Come' call to prayer from Ascension Day to Pentecost, 21st to 31st May. The website is here:-

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/>

and the resources include a booklet for daily prayer during that time, to buy a printed copy, or download (free):-

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/resources/common-worship-daily-prayer-thy-kingdom-come>

THE BIBLE SOCIETY:

The Bible Society is releasing weekly videos of Bob Hartman (author of the "Open the Book" resources) telling a Bible story:

<https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/open-the-book/stories-with-bob-hartman/>